

33/49/

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FRP: *33C* →

STATE *MM*

ACTION: NONE INFO: ODPN-N, ODPS-S, RF, FILE, OPA/II-2, WEN/UK,
WES/SA, CR/E, EUR-3, IAD/CAS-3, NIO/WE, OCO/WE, (15/W)
(ADDED DISSEM 280238Z REV A PER C/S): FILE, CSTRO, D/FBIS-2, (4/W)

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RR RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
TUTS300
RR RUEHC
DE RUDTC #8785 2671711
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 241709Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2601
RUEHIA/USICA WASHDC 1664
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 18785

DD/FBIS
PA D/FBIS
2 CLOS

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/21/79 (STREATOR, EDWARD J.) OR-M
TAGS: SOPN, UK
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN BBC OVERSEAS BROADCASTING

REF: STATE 235475

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FCO VIEWS ON POSSIBLE BBC PROGRAM CHANGES IN A LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 19 FROM LORD N. GORDON LENNOX, AN ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, ADDRESSED TO MINISTER. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO STREATOR'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 13 TO THE FCO ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL.
2. TEXT OF SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF LETTER FOLLOWS:
QUOTE I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE CUTS TO THE EXTERNAL SERVICES. I CERTAINLY AGREE ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY PLAY IN OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES AND THE HIGH ESTEEM THEY ENJOY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. BUT AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT HAVE JUDGED IT NECESSARY TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF FUTURE PLANS FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND IT IS CLEAR THAT AN EFFORT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO PRODUCE SAVINGS IN EVERY AREA. AS A GRANT-AIDED BODY, THE EXTERNAL SERVICES CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THAT REVIEW. OUR AIM WILL BE TO MINIMIZE ANY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM CUTS AND TO THAT END OFFICIALS OF THE BBC AND THE FCO HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS. IT WILL NOW

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State Dept. review completed

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BE FOR MINISTERS TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE THE
REQUIRED ECONOMIES. THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN THE
REVIEW OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DUE
COURSE IN A WHITE PAPER ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. UNTIL
THEN THERE IS, I AM AFRAID, LITTLE MORE I CAN SAY THAT
WOULD BE MATERIAL TO THE TALKS YOU MENTION BETWEEN THE
BBC AND VOA. UNQUOTE
BREWSTER

END OF MESSAGE

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